

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSPECTING RETICLES IMPLEMENTING  
PARALLEL PROCESSING**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Disclosed is an apparatus for analyzing a plurality of image portions of at least  
5 a region of a sample. The apparatus includes a plurality of processors arranged to  
receive and analyze at least one of the image portions, and the processors being  
arranged to operate in parallel. The apparatus also includes a data distribution system  
arranged to receive image data, select at least a first processor for receiving a first  
image from the image data, select at least a second processor for receiving a second  
10 image from the image data, and output the first and second image portions to their  
selected processors.